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Operational activities for development

Advancement of women

Activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, prepared pursuant to Assembly resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984.

* A/57/50/Rev.1.



Report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on its activities in 2001

Summary

The present report provides a review and update of the programme and activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for the year 2001. The 2001 UNIFEM activities report demonstrates that UNIFEM is bringing its years of experience in advocacy, building partnerships, capacity-building, piloting innovative projects, and increasing knowledge about women's leadership and rights to the support of positive change in women's lives. The report also makes recommendations on how UNIFEM programmes can be further strengthened.

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides a review and update of the programmes and activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for the year 2001. The report tracks the progress of UNIFEM in implementing its Strategy and Business Plan (2000-2003). In 2001, the Plan was in its second year of implementation, presenting an opportune moment for the organization to assess mid-term progress and identify potential bottlenecks. The year under review was also important as it saw the passage of the biennial General Assembly resolution on UNIFEM (resolution 56/130) in December 2001. The resolution strengthened the mandate for the work of UNIFEM and recognized a number of strategic areas in which UNIFEM should continue to provide and increase support.

2. The crystallization in 2001 of the millennium development goals and the road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see A/56/326) marked a key opportunity to highlight the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment as a goal in its own right and as a cross-cutting concern for all millennium development goals. The Beijing Platform for Action,¹ the outcome document of its five-year review undertaken at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,² and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ taken together, contain a comprehensive menu of forward-looking and visionary recommendations for achieving this goal. UNIFEM has a key role to play in ensuring that a dynamic knowledge base and increasing capacity to track progress in fulfilling commitments to the millennium development goals are easily accessible to countries, communities and institutions that are moving forward on implementing an agenda for gender equality and women's rights.

3. One of the most significant challenges for the organization in 2001 was the crisis in Afghanistan and the need for a United Nations system response. UNIFEM rapidly mobilized its resources to ensure that Afghan women were able to articulate their views and that women's leadership and rights remained in the reconstruction agenda. UNIFEM also played a key role in supporting gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system's response.

4. In June 2001, the work of UNIFEM on gender, human rights and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) took

on added momentum when the General Assembly convened a first-ever special session on HIV/AIDS. The special session was significant for its unprecedented attention to the gender dimensions of the crisis. In the final Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,⁴ world leaders unconditionally acknowledged that the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS to date is largely a symptom of humankind's ongoing failure to promote and protect women's human rights, and concluded that "gender equality and the empowerment of women are fundamental elements in the reduction of the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS" (para. 14).

5. The year 2001 was the first year of the three-year term of the current Consultative Committee members. The Committee members provided important guidance, encouragement and support to UNIFEM throughout the year. Among the Committee's achievements in 2001, it is particularly important to recognize its significant contributions to the passage of the biennial General Assembly resolution on UNIFEM (resolution 56/130) on 19 December 2001. The Committee's leadership and guidance on this and other issues arising for UNIFEM have been instrumental in assisting the organization in improving the administrative and programmatic mechanisms that are essential to the increased ability of UNIFEM to achieve results and fulfil its mandate effectively.

6. UNIFEM is responding to these opportunities and challenges by strengthening the strategic focus, synergy and interlinkages between and among its programme efforts. The 2001 UNIFEM activities report demonstrates that UNIFEM is bringing its years of experience in advocacy, building partnerships, developing capacity, piloting innovative projects, and increasing knowledge about women's leadership and rights to the support of positive change in women's lives. The report also makes recommendations on how UNIFEM programmes can be further strengthened.

II. Programme

A. Overview

7. The programmes of UNIFEM are designed to achieve three strategic results: (a) strengthening women's economic security and rights; (b) ensuring that women's leadership shapes governance and peace-building; and (c) promoting women's human rights and

eliminating violence against women. Innovative strategies and programmes in each of these areas have been undertaken, generating positive results, lessons learned and challenges for the future. The following expands on innovative results achieved through UNIFEM programming during the year 2001.

B. Strengthening women's economic security and rights

8. The work of UNIFEM on strengthening women's economic security and rights responds to the opportunities and challenges presented by globalization. Programmes and projects take into account the ways in which globalization has intensified existing inequalities and insecurities in different countries, regionally and internationally. At the same time, UNIFEM strives to ensure that women can benefit from the opportunities that globalization creates through, for instance, making available relatively low-cost information and communication technologies (ICT) that reduce transaction costs and make communications across cultures and continents a possibility for poor communities.

9. In 2001, four key results emerged from the work of UNIFEM on women's economic security and rights:

(a) New and strengthened institutions, laws and policies to facilitate women's equal ownership and access to economic resources. UNIFEM supported the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data to inform economic policy-making, stronger gender-sensitive legislation and policies to strengthen women's economic security in the informal sector, and burgeoning grass-roots activities to link women's economic and social rights, especially in the context of preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, Mexico, March 2002). UNIFEM is working to achieve greater visibility for women's unpaid work in census exercises and stronger protective legislation for home-based workers in Asia. Years of successful collaboration between UNIFEM and national statistical departments have contributed to the incorporation of gender in the data-collection systems of India and Nepal, leading to greater acceptance among policy makers of prioritizing the measurement of women's work in national census exercises. In the Central and Eastern European region/Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), UNIFEM successfully advocated for tax reform

legislation that eliminated a disproportionate financial burden on women "suitcase traders";

(b) Increased knowledge and understanding with respect to managing globalization and economic transition from the perspective of poor women. Analysing the impact of trade policies on women's livelihood options and incorporating a gender perspective in macroeconomic policies are key elements of UNIFEM work in this area. In Africa and Latin America, UNIFEM is assisting with the establishment of new regional networks to advocate for gender-responsive macroeconomic options, including a Network of African Women Economists and a network of non-governmental organizations called *Iniciativa Cartagena* in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(c) New commitments to incorporate gender perspectives in economic governance. UNIFEM is providing direct support to gender-responsive budget analysis in more than 20 programme countries. Its collaboration with the Government of Belgium to convene a high-level global meeting resulted in the endorsement by 47 countries of a communiqué urging national and international recognition of gender analysis of government budget initiatives as a tool to enhance economic and financial governance. At national levels, advocacy by UNIFEM resulted in the incorporation of gender analysis in the design of Mexico's National Health Budget and a chapter on gender inequalities as a regular feature of the annual Economic Survey of the Government of India;

(d) Increased economic capacity for women entrepreneurs, producers and informal sector workers. UNIFEM support is enabling women producers to strengthen market linkages, access ICT to facilitate business development, and analyse subsectors to identify promising economic opportunities. The assistance of UNIFEM has been instrumental in launching a Technical Resources Network for Small and Micro-Enterprises in the Arab States, a new forum for South Asian women entrepreneurs, a network of Peruvian and Ecuadorian artisan women, and networks of women entrepreneurs that are using ICT to access new markets.

10. UNIFEM initiatives in support of women's economic security have encountered significant challenges and generated interesting lessons. An assessment of the work of UNIFEM on gender and trade has revealed that much stronger linkages are needed with trade unions and academics. Greater

investments in economic analysis and economic literacy will be required to increase the impact of efforts to engender macroeconomic policies.

C. Women's leadership to shape governance and peace-building

11. In 2001, UNIFEM significantly expanded its programmes and projects in every region to ensure that women's leadership shapes governance and peace-building. Nearly \$12 million was pledged by bilateral donors and the United Nations Foundation for multi-year programmes to provide assistance to women in conflict situations, to build understanding of the impact of war and armed conflict on women, and to support women's roles in building peace.

12. Among notable results from UNIFEM initiatives in the governance and peace-building area are the following:

(a) Creation of replicable models for increasing women's leadership in peace-building and reconstruction. In Africa, the support of UNIFEM to successful advocacy for gender perspectives in the Burundi peace process during 2000 led to an invitation from the Facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue to provide advice and subsequent support to women's groups in developing an agenda for influencing peace negotiations in the Congo. In East Timor, the collaboration of UNIFEM with the Gender Adviser of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) in supporting women's political participation resulted in the standing of 268 women — representing 27 per cent of the total number of candidates — as candidates;

(b) New and strengthened partnerships with United Nations agencies to support women's leadership in peace-building and to mainstream gender in all protection and assistance efforts. Collaborations have been launched with the joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to address gender and HIV/AIDS in the peacekeeping environment in Sierra Leone; with the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to support women's participation in peace processes in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan; with the United Nations country team/Islamabad to prepare the gender section of the United Nations Immediate

and Transitional Assistance Programme for Afghan People, 2002; and with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat in the follow-up to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

13. The response of UNIFEM to the situation in Afghanistan has been important for ensuring that women's leadership and rights remain in the agenda throughout the reconstruction process. UNIFEM played a key role in supporting gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system's response to the crisis. UNIFEM in partnership with the Government of Belgium convened a round table of Afghan women from diverse backgrounds and political beliefs, from within and outside Afghanistan, to engage in a dialogue about women's involvement in the peace and reconstruction process. The round table's specific recommendations resulted in the Brussels Plan of Action, the seminal document that fed into the development of the United Nations appeal for 2002 and preliminary needs assessment prepared under the auspices of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. In follow-up to the Brussels round table, UNIFEM — in consultation with the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs — led a United Nations inter-agency initiative for a national Afghan women's consultation in Kabul in March 2002. The resulting Afghan Women's Agenda for Action was presented to a gathering of 800 people, heads of United Nations agencies and the Afghan interim Government on International Women's Day, 8 March.

14. With programming in the areas of peace, security and governance increasing exponentially in 2001, it is crucial for UNIFEM to improve the systems that it uses to compile and share lessons learned and respond to key challenges. Its rapid response to the situation in Afghanistan has been critical in ensuring that women's rights are part of the reconstruction process; at the same time, as a small fund, UNIFEM is challenged in terms of the need to reassign staff to respond to situations of great urgency.

D. Promoting women's human rights and eliminating violence against women

15. Promoting women's human rights and eliminating violence against women continue to be a strong focus in all of the regions in which UNIFEM works. Efforts in this

thematic area also include a rapidly expanding programme to mainstream gender and human rights into strategies to address HIV/AIDS. Key mechanisms for undertaking work in this area are the programme of UNIFEM to promote the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. The Trust Fund, in particular, serves as a laboratory for innovation and a barometer of the demand for support to end violence against women. In 2001, the Trust Fund call for proposals resulted in 325 submissions with requests totalling \$17.5 million at a time when UNIFEM had only \$1 million to provide in grants. The efforts of UNIFEM in this thematic area have resulted in the following:

(a) New and strengthened policies, legislation and commitments in support of women's human rights have been secured in all regions. A national action plan on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in Nepal, the use of the Convention as a tool for the constitutional review process in Rwanda, and the establishment of an intersectoral network of community and governmental services to end violence against women in Brazil are some examples of stronger enabling environments for women's rights that are being created through UNIFEM-supported initiatives;

(b) New or strengthened institutional mechanisms to address gender-based violence were created as a result of project initiatives in Bangladesh where the Government is setting up a cross-ministerial anti-trafficking cell and in Brazil where local governments in numerous cities have created an intersectoral network of community and government services to improve support for women survivors of violence;

(c) Scaled-up and replicable strategies based on UNIFEM-supported pilots and lessons learned about ending violence and addressing gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS have been noted in all regions. The launch by UNIFEM of a region-wide campaign to end violence against women in CIS replicates the organization's 1998-1999 experiences in other regions. Likewise, the South Asian initiative of UNIFEM to address trafficking of women builds on the experiences of Trust Fund projects and demand created by the UNIFEM 1999 regional campaign. Training methods developed in the UNIFEM pilot programme on Gender-focused Interventions to Address the Challenges of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic have been replicated in universities in Thailand, Mexico and the Bahamas.

16. UNIFEM has devoted considerable effort to gathering lessons and building a knowledge base in this thematic area. Its connections to grantees of the Trust Fund through grant-making and strategic communications workshops help to deepen this knowledge considerably. It has also identified significant challenges that it must confront to stimulate meaningful change in this area. Demands on the Trust Fund are growing exponentially, without sufficient resources to meet them. Given the relatively limited field presence of UNIFEM, the need to continue to build a critical mass of experts on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in countries worldwide, and to provide expert support to United Nations partners on the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS also presents significant challenges.

Strengthening United Nations system capacity to support women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming

17. In 2001, UNIFEM made considerable progress in strengthening United Nations system capacity to support women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming in its policies and programmes. The following results are notable:

(a) Stronger and more focused support to the resident coordinator system to promote women's empowerment and rights. Coordination mechanisms, such as inter-agency thematic groups, and country-specific instruments, such as common country assessments (CCAs) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), continued to provide opportunities for UNIFEM to mainstream gender into United Nations programmes and policies in the field and at headquarters. UNIFEM chairs inter-agency thematic groups on gender in 11 countries and co-chairs groups with other United Nations agencies in 4 countries. UNIFEM provided inputs into CCA/UNDAF preparation in 29 countries. At headquarters, the Executive Director of UNIFEM leads the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality task force on gender mainstreaming in the CCA/UNDAF process. The task force initiated in 2001 a gender assessment of CCAs/UNDAs. UNIFEM was the first chair of the Gender Working Group of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Task Force on Afghanistan. UNIFEM worked closely with the United Nations country team in Islamabad to formulate the gender component of the United Nations Immediate and Transitional Assistance

Programme for Afghan People, 2002, and the Afghanistan Preliminary Needs Assessment for Recovery and Recruitment led by UNDP, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank;

(b) Development of new agreements and strengthening of existing collaborations with United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, which have provided critical opportunities to enable UNIFEM to make progress in carrying out its mandate to act as a catalyst in the United Nations system. UNIFEM synergy with UNDP is increasing on a number of fronts, in part owing to new arrangements that allow UNIFEM to execute projects for UNDP. The UNDP Results-Oriented Annual Report (ROAR), 2001, notes that the number of country offices reporting joint UNDP/UNIFEM interventions have increased from 39 to 51. Through UNIFEM execution of 11 UNDP projects and other modalities, the two organizations are now collaborating on participatory budgets in the Andean region, on the first baseline study on gender disparities in Bhutan and on a study on the impact of armed conflict on Palestinian women. The largest project that UNIFEM is executing for UNDP is a \$790,000 initiative to promote gender equality in Burundi. Strengthened collaboration with UNAIDS has resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, the co-chairing by UNIFEM with UNFPA of a UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team on Gender, and an agreement from UNAIDS to cover costs for UNIFEM to provide gender expertise in Sierra Leone and India and at UNIFEM headquarters in New York. UNIFEM continued to execute projects for UNFPA in Angola and Indonesia, and to backstop six Gender, Population and Development Specialists in UNFPA country support teams;

(c) Heightened visibility for field-based innovations for gender equality in the intergovernmental arena. The Commission on the Status of Women continues to be a key venue within which UNIFEM may connect the normative process with operational realities. In 2001, UNIFEM also brought gender expertise and experience to the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council devoted to the theme of the role of the United Nations system in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development; on Africa (the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); and the

sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development. With the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNIFEM convened an expert group on gender and racial discrimination in preparation for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

18. The opportunities and challenges for mainstreaming gender in the United Nations system have both increased. On-demand availability of gender expertise to the resident coordinator system is a critical ingredient. The UNIFEM Gender Adviser programme, and its collaboration with UNFPA on fielding Gender, Population and Development Specialists, and with UNDP and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) on fielding gender specialists, have increased gender expertise in the field. Evaluations of these programmes will yield important information in 2002 from which revised support plans, taking into account the changing environment, will be developed.

Supporting learning and strategic partnerships

19. The Fund's considerable progress in supporting learning and strategic partnerships has resulted in a number of important achievements, including:

(a) More targeted and focused documentation and dissemination of experiences and lessons learned, particularly to support replication and knowledge-sharing. To ensure more targeted and focused documentation and dissemination, UNIFEM is utilizing a broader range of media and materials to convey experiences and lessons learned. *Picturing a Life Free of Violence*, published in 2001, is an example of this approach. This collection of posters, television and radio spots, brochures and other materials from UNIFEM Trust Fund grantees and other partners is available in book form, but is also accessible electronically in a searchable database housed at the Media/Materials Clearinghouse of Johns Hopkins University. Availability of these images electronically makes it possible for groups worldwide to adapt or replicate each other's materials, potentially saving time and funds when designing campaigns and media messages. UNIFEM is expanding access to information via publication of case studies and training materials, and expansion of web sites and training for groups in Internet use — particularly in local languages — as illustrated through the launch of Arab Women Connect;

(b) Increased collaboration with partners to ensure that innovative experiences and exchange of good practices are accessible to a wide range of stakeholders. UNIFEM continues to support networks of journalists with regard to increasing gender-sensitive reporting in every region. UNIFEM has also been coordinating Strategic Communications Workshops to "tell the story" of ending violence against women in every region, resulting in strengthened partnerships and media strategies between grantees and with UNIFEM offices. Study tours have also been used to deepen working relationships and peer exchange;

(c) Progress within UNIFEM in moving from isolated projects to thematic programmes that are supported by updated tools and assessment processes for monitoring, learning and change. Regional strategic planning exercises within UNIFEM and an internal planning process to map a path towards greater decentralization are contributing to a more strategic focus for UNIFEM initiatives. UNIFEM launched 11 assessment activities in 2001 of which 5 have been completed. Results will underpin programme development and mid-course corrections. To ensure that staff has tools to share and update learning and insights, UNIFEM has launched an Intranet space that greatly facilitates access to the organization's internal knowledge resources.

III. Financial management

20. The UNIFEM Strategy and Business Plan (2000-2003) set out a significant challenge for the organization: to become a \$40 million fund by 2003. While resources have been increasing slowly and steadily, it will take a significant push in the next two years to achieve the set targets.

21. In 2001, the UNIFEM resource mobilization strategy focused on laying the groundwork for strategic partnerships with diverse donors around key thematic areas. Contributions to core resources increased by 8 per cent, from \$19.1 million in 2000 to \$20.7 million in 2001, the first time that the core resources of UNIFEM had surpassed \$20 million. Multi-year pledges to cost-sharing also increased significantly in 2001, an increase of more than 50 per cent over 2000. Total contributions to UNIFEM in 2001 rose to \$27.9 million, an increase of \$1.3 million or 5 per cent over the previous year. UNIFEM is strengthening its

resource mobilization efforts to reach its goal of \$35 million from all sources by the end of 2003.

22. UNIFEM has taken steps to increase and diversify its resource base, as evidenced by its 2001 achievements directed towards the following three sub-objectives:

(a) Strengthening and expanding partnerships with bilateral donors around areas of common concern. In 2001, UNIFEM strengthened and expanded partnerships with a number of bilateral donors. Seven donor Governments increased their contribution and one Government contributed for the first time. It should be noted that the continuous strengthening of the United States dollar considerably affected actual income from donors pledging in their home currency. This was particularly the case for European Union (EU) countries since the euro had depreciated about 7 per cent over the United States dollar in the course of 2001. Had there been a more stable exchange rate, increase in contributions would have been even more sizeable. During 2001, UNIFEM continued to enter into new multi-year co-financing arrangements with various donors. A total of \$12.3 million representing \$6.9 million and \$5.4 million for cost-sharing and sub-trust funds respectively was approved by donors for multi-years, compared with \$8.2 million in 2000. New pledges to cost-sharing and sub-trust funds showed an increase of \$4.1 million or 50 per cent over the previous year;

(b) Leveraging funds for gender equality and women's rights through new partnerships with multilateral agencies. The collaboration of UNIFEM with other United Nations agencies in 2001 resulted in increased resources and more strategic collaboration. The partnership with UNAIDS was strengthened, yielding \$700,000 for UNIFEM work and a strongly worded Memorandum of Understanding between the organizations. Executing agency agreements have strengthened the relationship of UNIFEM with UNDP and UNFPA and supported significant field-level work;

(c) Exploring opportunities to develop partnerships with socially responsible private sector entities. UNIFEM has expanded its partnerships beyond United Nations agencies and traditional donors, by seeking new opportunities with international non-governmental organizations and private foundations and corporations. An important source of support for UNIFEM in 2001 has been the United Nations Foundation, which matched \$3 million of a pledge from the Department for International Development/United

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (DFID/UK) with an additional \$3 million for the UNIFEM programme on women in conflict. UNIFEM also secured funding from the Ford Foundation and the Noel Foundation for projects in India and Mexico. Expanding private sector partnerships presents unique opportunities as well as challenges. UNIFEM field offices have successfully established partnerships with corporations such as l'Occitane (Dakar) and Cisco Systems, Inc., and the Cisco Foundation (Amman). The 19 UNIFEM National Committees are also a potential source of growth in the organization's visibility and resources.

IV. Recommendations

23. Key priorities for action are recommended annually by the UNIFEM Consultative Committee, comprising five member States appointed by the President of the General Assembly representing their regional grouping. Recommendations from the forty-second session of the Committee included the following:

(a) The Consultative Committee welcomed the ongoing efforts of UNIFEM to support the capacity of Governments and non-governmental organizations to undertake gender budget analysis. The Committee stressed the importance of linking efforts to engender national budgets with efforts to engender national statistics;

(b) The Consultative Committee commended the ongoing efforts of UNIFEM to contribute to the follow-up to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The Committee moreover encouraged the work of UNIFEM in the area of prevention and early warning and underscored the need for relevant information about the impact of armed conflict on women and women's role in peace-building to be provided on a regular basis to all relevant political and decision-making bodies.

(c) The Consultative Committee noted the growing gap between an ever-increasing volume of grant requests submitted to the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women each year and the Trust Fund's relatively constant annual resource base. In this regard, the Committee encouraged UNIFEM to strengthen fund-raising strategies for the Trust Fund, in particular to designate 25 November (the

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) as the day for making specific appeals to member States and other potential contributors to increase their pledges to the Fund;

(d) The Consultative Committee encouraged close collaboration between UNIFEM and UNDP in working towards the millennium development goals, and ensuring the achievement of gender equality as a millennium development goal in its own right as well as a cross-cutting issue relating to all development goals. It encouraged UNDP, as the official scorekeeper for the millennium development goals, to make use of the expertise of UNIFEM in tracking progress on the gender dimensions of all millennium development goals;

(e) The Consultative Committee encouraged UNIFEM to build on the Gender Adviser assessment (and other related assessments on provision of gender expertise to the resident coordinator system) by undertaking a more comprehensive assessment to map the role of Gender Advisers and inter-agency thematic groups, and other mechanisms and identify staffing requirements to maximize the gender expertise that is available to the resident coordinator system;

(f) The Consultative Committee noted the critical need for the involvement of UNIFEM and other associated funds in the comprehensive exercise of UNDP undertaken to streamline and simplify its own management systems. The Committee further emphasized the necessity of such participation and representation at the inception and design stage at UNDP so as to ensure that the smooth interface of UNIFEM systems with changes instituted at UNDP, and to ensure that the specific needs of UNIFEM are not overlooked during efforts to rationalize UNDP systems.

Notes

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

² General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

³ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.